GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3155
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2002
SBI BRANCHES, CHHIPITOLA
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `State Bank, Chhipitola mein achanak tale latke` appearing in `Dainik Jagran` (Delhi) dated February 9, 2002 ;

(b) whether the decision to close the bank was not taken in advance ;

(c) if so, the reasons for not apprising the customers well in advance ;

(d) whether similar incidents have taken place in other banks as well ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) the guidelines issued or steps taken by the Government to avoid the recurrence of such incidents causing troubles to the customers in future ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a), (b) & (c) : As per information received from State Bank of India (SBI), Chhipitola Branch, Agra was not closed and itemained opened on 8.2.2002 but could provide only skeleton services due to severe shortage of staff on account of deployment of more than half of the employees for State Election Duty/ Training by State Government. 20 Terminals and 6 cash counters functioned on the day and there were 1952 transactions.

(d) & (e) : SBI has reported that due to similar deployment of staff only skeleton services could be provided at four other branches in Agra including Raja ki Mandi, Agra City, Shoe Market and Sadar Bazar, Agra.

(f) : As per guidelines issued by Indian Banks` Association, where banks` personnel are requisitioned on a large scale, Banks may request the authority concerned to keep its indent to the bare minimum in view of the fact that Public Sector Banks are public utility services and such large scale requisitioning would adversely affect banking services thereby inconveniencing the banking public.